

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An electrical connection system, the system comprising:
 - a first electrical connector with a first housing;
 - a second electrical connector with a second housing, the second housing having one of a projection and a projection opening along one surface;
 - a plate connected to the first housing, the plate having the other one of the projection and the projection opening, when the first housing is connected to the second housing to couple the first electrical connector to the second electrical connector the projection is detachably engaged with the projection opening to detachably lock the first electrical connector to the second electrical connector, wherein an outer periphery of the projection is substantially the same size as an inner periphery of the projection opening.
2. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the second electrical connector and the plate have two or more of the projection and the projection opening used to lock the second electrical connector to the first electrical connector.
3. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the plate has a neutral position where the projection is seated in the projection opening and a release position where the projection is withdrawn from the projection opening to unlock the second electrical connector from the first electrical connector.
4. (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the plate comprises:
 - a first section connected to the first electrical connector, ~~a spring in the plate;~~
 - a second section having the other one of the projection and the projection opening; and
 - a biasing element connected between the first and second sections, the biasing element is spaced a first distance away from and is not adjacent to the other one of the projection and the projection opening on the plate.

5. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 4 wherein the second section has a neutral position where the projection is seated in the projection opening and a release position where the projection is withdrawn from the projection opening to unlock the second electrical connector from the first electrical connector.

6. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the first electrical connector is one of a male electrical connector and a female electrical connector and the second electrical connector is the other one of the male electrical connector and the female electrical connector.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of making an electrical connection system, the method comprising:

providing a first electrical connector with a first housing;
providing a second electrical connector with a second housing, the second housing having one of a projection and a projection opening along one surface;
connecting a plate to the first housing, the plate having the other one of the projection and the projection opening, when the first housing is connected to the second housing to couple the first electrical connector to the second electrical connector the projection is detachably engaged with the projection opening to detachably lock the first electrical connector to the second electrical connector, wherein an outer periphery of the projection is substantially the same size as an inner periphery of the projection opening.

8. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 7 wherein the second electrical connector and the plate have two or more of the projection and the projection opening used to lock the second electrical connector to the first electrical connector.

9. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 7 wherein the plate has a neutral position where the projection is seated in the projection opening and a release position where the projection is withdrawn from the projection opening to unlock the second electrical connector from the first electrical connector.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 7 wherein the plate comprises:

a first section connected to the first electrical connector, ~~a spring in the~~
plate;

a second section having the other one of the projection and the
projection opening; and

a biasing element connected between the first and second sections, the
biasing element is spaced a first distance away from and is not adjacent to the other one of the
projection and the projection opening on the plate.

11. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 10 wherein the second section has a neutral position where the projection is seated in the projection opening and a release position where the projection is withdrawn from the projection opening to unlock the second electrical connector from the first electrical connector.

12. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the first electrical connector is one of a male electrical connector and a female electrical connector and the second electrical connector is the other one of the male electrical connector and the female electrical connector.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for securing electrical connectors, the method comprising:

coupling a first electrical connector which is connected to a plate to a
second electrical connector;

aligning at least one projection on one of the second electrical
connector and a plate with a projection opening in the other one of the second electrical
connector and the plate; and

locking the second electrical connector to the first electrical connector
with the engagement of the projection with the projection opening, wherein an outer
periphery of the projection is substantially the same size as an inner periphery of the
projection opening.

14. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 13 further comprising
pivoting the plate from a neutral position where the projection is seated in the projection

opening to a release position where the projection is withdrawn from the projection opening to unlock the second electrical connector from the first electrical connector.

15. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 13 wherein the plate comprises:

a first section connected to the first electrical connector,~~a spring in the~~
plate;

a second section having the other one of the projection and the
projection opening; and

a biasing element connected between the first and second sections, the
biasing element is spaced a first distance away from and is not adjacent to the other one of the
projection and the projection opening on the plate.

16. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 15 wherein the second section has a neutral position where the projection is seated in the projection opening and a release position where the projection is withdrawn from the projection opening to unlock the second electrical connector from the first electrical connector.

17. (New) The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the outer periphery of the projection and the inner periphery of the projection opening have the substantially the same shape.

18. (New) The method as set forth in claim 7 wherein the outer periphery of the projection and the inner periphery of the projection opening have the substantially the same shape.

19. (New) The method as set forth in claim 13 wherein the outer periphery of the projection and the inner periphery of the projection opening have the substantially the same shape.